

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /129 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1475

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN

SUBJ: UNGA DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS

REF: USUN 58666

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE FIRS COMMITTEE'S ABRUPT "ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE" LAST WEEK ON THE JAPANESE RESOLUTION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS (REFTEL, SEVERAL WESTERN DELS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE FAILURE OF THE EFFORT THIS YEAR AND INTEREST IN MEANS OF KEEPING THE ISSUE ALIVE FOR RENEWED ATTENTION AT THE NEXT UNGA OR, MORE PROBABLY, AT THE 1978 SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. SINGAPORE IS REPORTEDLY ALREADY CONSIDERING TAKING DIRECT ACTION ON ITS OWN NEXT YEAR, WHILE THE BRITISH AND DUTCH ARE LOOKING TOWARD THE SPECIAL SESSION AND THE BELGIANS WILL BE RECONSIDERING THEIR APPROACH, FOCUSED ON "REGIONAL ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT."

2. AS AN INTERIM STEP, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE JAPANESE THAT THEY CONSIDER MAKING A STATEMENT CONCERNING THEIR INITIATIVE IN THE COURSE OF PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF DISARMAMENT ITEMS, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON DEC 10 OR 13 AND CONCLUDE BY DEC 14. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD PRESUMABLY BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS UNDER

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THE AGENDA ITEM ON GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT,

SINCE THIS WAS THE RUBRIC FOR THE JAPANESE RESOLUTION AND THE ACTION ON IT TAKEN BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE WILL (ALSO PRESUMABLY) BE REFLECTED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE IMTE. ITS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO KEEP THE INITIATIVE ON THE RECORD AND TO SUGGEST THAT DEBATE ON THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RESUMED IN THE FUTURE. JAPANESE ALT REP SAWAI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SUGGESTION AND SAID HIS DEL WOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A STATEMENT.

3. THE BRITISH BELIEVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES MOST INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT BOTH TO THE PRECISE OBJECTIVES OF POSSIBLE UNGA ACTION IN THE FIELD OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND TO THE OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TACTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED. THEY AND THE DUTCH ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OFFERS THE MOST PROMISING FORUM FOR A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BRING THE ISSUE INTO THE OPEN, SINCE THE SESSION WILL PROVIDE A SUITABLY BROAD FRAMEWORK IN WHICH CONVENTIONAL ARMS COULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL "BALANCED" APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS. SCRANTON

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